

PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER MT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

2012 QUICK FACTS:

\$302,255 raised
\$42,355 in kind raised
2,764 volunteers recruited
2,039 new clients served



The Prevention Resource Center VISTA Project assists Montana communities in creating and sustaining conditions that reduce risk, as well as promote the safety, personal responsibility, and well-being of our youth. The Prevention Resource Center is a project intermediary with VISTAs serving statewide under the following CNCS focus areas:

- Healthy Futures
 - ⇒ Access to healthcare
 - ⇒ Nutrition
- Education
 - ⇒ K-12 Success
- Veterans
 - ⇒ Mental health services
 - ⇒ Military families

COLLABORATION IS KEY

At the 2012 National Conference on Volunteering and Service, PRC VISTA Program Manager Abby Zent presented a workshop focused on National Service Programs working together with AmeriCorps VISTA Director Mary Strasser and AmeriCorps project staff from Iowa and Nevada.

"Great Falls Weed & Seed received its first VISTA in January 2010; we had applied without a full understanding of the level of excellence both the PRC and the VISTA Program would bring to our work...I cannot overstate the value of these VISTAs' work, made possible by the able assistance of the PRC."
~ Carol Bronson, Site Director,
Great Falls Weed & Seed



CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

VISTA: Sandi Poltorak

HEALTHY FUTURES

QUICK FACTS:

\$6,713 raised
\$610 in-kind donations
26 volunteers recruited
250 new clients served

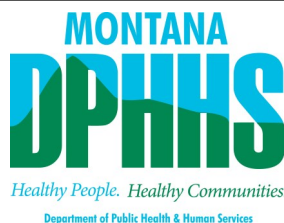


The goal of the VISTA serving at Child Care Connections (CCC) is to increase the number of child care providers, parents, and children who know what a healthy lifestyle entails and understand the benefits of maintaining a nutritious diet and engaging in physical activity regularly. Sandi helped Child Care Connections reach this goal by raising community awareness, securing funding for the nutrition and safety programs at CCC, and increasing services for families receiving Best Beginnings Scholarships (scholarships are provided to low income families through DPHHS).

In association with the Child Nutrition program, Sandi designed the Cheap Eats Cookbook which provides recipes that are all easy, nutritious and cost effective with all recipes being under 3 dollars a serving. The cookbook also encourages families to cook together by incorporating specific tasks for children. Child care providers served by CCC received the cookbook so that they can provide nutritious meals to the children they serve on a daily basis. Recently a program has begun to include parent's participation in designing the Cheap Eats cookbook and offering related events. The cookbook is also sold to the public and for every 2 cookbooks sold, CCC will donate one cookbook to a family receiving a Best Beginnings Scholarship.

Sandi raised awareness by developing approximately 20 events to include information booths, bike helmet fittings, a CCC sponsored conference for child care providers where staff cooked and provided lunch using recipes from the Cheap Eats cookbook, and a wine and cheese social for child care providers. She also developed, organized and recruited volunteers for a month long booth at the mall during Christmas where information about CCC was distributed and money raised for various programs. Distribution of CCC information at these events provided more people with information about the Best Beginnings Scholarship which in turn lowered child care costs for struggling families allowing more parents to remain in the work force and/or in school.

Distribution of CCC information provided more people with information about the Best Beginnings Scholarship which in turn lowered child care costs for low income families which allows more parents to remain in the work force and/or in school. Parents who are able to remain in the work force and/or school gain knowledge and abilities that better prepare them for higher paying jobs that will move them out of poverty.



DPHHS: CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION VISTA: KAYLA GRZECH

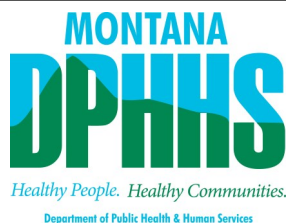
HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

In Montana, 44% of our children in foster care are Native American. While there are multiple factors that contribute to this number, the focus of this VISTA project has been to find ways to strengthen recruitment and retention of Native foster families. Native youth in care then will have a higher likelihood of being placed with a Native family, keeping them connected to their culture and their community during a traumatic time in their life.

This will increase resiliency factors and decrease risk factors so that there is an overall decrease in youth risk behaviors, particularly substance abuse/use. Recruitment and retention of foster families is difficult, as it is a big commitment and requires a long vetting process. The primary focus of this VISTA project has been the Native Recruitment & Retention Workgroup, which brings together State and Tribal workers on questions surrounding our Native youth in State care, and identifies the barriers to Native recruitment and retention and implements strategies to overcome these barriers.

The third and final year of this VISTA project has been spent working on sustainability. With many changes in CFSD staff and leadership, I felt that the most important legacy to leave behind is that of information and a solid foundation. I worked to streamline our foster care inquiry process, including implementing a survey to be completed by inquirers. The information gathered by this questionnaire allows CFSD staff to better direct inquiries, and to accumulate data on the effectiveness of future recruitment campaigns. Working with CFSD central office staff, I began to develop regular data reports on our Native youth in care and our Native foster care providers. I aided in coordinating a conference inviting State & Tribal workers to come together with professionals and Tribal social services workers from other states to share information and ideas on Native recruitment and retention. For Native youth who are placed in non-Native homes, I updated and expanded our list of resources available to help foster care providers learn and keep these children connected to their culture. I researched and provided strategies on community-based recruitment and retention efforts that are effective and can be evaluated. I coordinated and facilitated a training for ICWA Qualified Expert Witnesses, who advocate for Native youth in care and provide cultural knowledge on child-rearing practices to the courts. Most importantly, I worked as a liaison between Central Office and Tribal Social Services staff to maintain communication and foster stronger relationships.

The Native Recruitment and Retention workgroup has outgrown its original designation and has now evolved into several smaller regionally-based groups that will be carried on long past my VISTA service. Regions will now have a basis to work from and local state offices will be able to work collaboratively with Tribal social services and Urban Indian Centers in their local communities.



DPHHS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH BUREAU VISTA: TRACY STONE

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

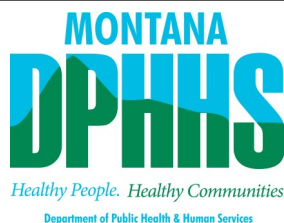
\$20,060 raised

25 volunteers recruited

Of Montana's youth ages 10-19, approximately 11%, or 13,974, are estimated to struggle with a serious mental illness. Currently, Montana's suicide rate leads the nation and is one of the major causes of death among youth. Multiple factors contribute to this high suicide rate that include social stigma, lack of access to services due to rural settings, substance abuse, social isolation, high unemployment, and high rates of poverty. The focus of this VISTA project is to develop and support youth mental health related projects or opportunities such as promoting youth voice, anti-stigma work, peer-to-peer support, wellness, recovery, leadership trainings, and advocacy. Montana has a variety of unique communities including Native American reservations, rural isolated towns, and urban settings. Each of these communities presents their own specific challenges to meet their individual issues relating to youth mental health. Once the unique qualities of these various communities were identified, a new approach was taken in the third VISTA year after the initial assessments in years one and two. This new approach focused on the importance of localization rather than following a national organization in order for the project to be more effective in meeting the specific needs of Montana's youth.

During the third year, the VISTA collaborated with Montana's Peer Network, a Montana-developed community non-profit, to develop a youth sector: The Youth Peer Network. The purpose of the youth sector is to allow the opportunity to connect with others struggling statewide (i.e. meetings in-person or via supervised social media); to develop and foster youth-led mental health projects or groups through mini-grants; and to provide resources promoting wellness, recovery, advocacy, youth voice, education, and leadership. The Youth Peer Network, through support and opportunity, allows youth to deal with mental well-being in a healthy way to prevent or help recover from substance abuse, the criminal justice system, self-harm, and other unhealthy outcomes. The Youth Peer Network will be sustained by Montana Peer Network's Board of Directors and current youth volunteers. The VISTA partnered with two representatives from different mental health focused non-profits in the state to create a mental health anti-stigma documentary about youth, adults, and caregivers dealing with mental health in various parts of Montana. The documentary is available for free distribution to any interested parties and was and will continue to be presented at multiple conferences and meetings to a broad spectrum of audiences.

Montana's Youth Peer Network continues to grow across the state both in membership and in the development of useful programs and opportunities to aid at-risk youth struggling with mental health issues. In the future, the Youth Peer Network will be an integral support arm of the youth voice in the mental health system. The Youth Peer Network will help at-risk youth succeed by continuing to support the development of the Peer Support Specialist career and youth crisis diversion services. With the assistance of youth and community partners, the Youth Peer Network will provide both education and awareness which in turn will diminish the negative stigma associated with mental illness allowing at-risk youth to freely seek the proper help.



FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

VISTA: WENDI BRODIS

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$57,000 in kind raised
15 volunteers recruited
87 new clients served

The goal of my project was to implement the Positive Parenting Program, Triple P, in the community. The preventative program expands parenting services to any parent who has concerns about their child's behavior.

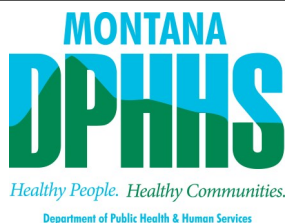
Capacity was built by collaborating with other agencies who serve parents and/or children. Leaders from four community organizations received training and certification in multiple Triple P services. The wide range of services, from phone consultations and parenting seminars, to one-on-one consultations allows for agencies to meet the individual needs of clients.

Standard Triple P functions as a more intensive program and serves families with mental health needs. This year, FSN served 9 families in this program. Primary Care Triple P focuses on common behavioral issues, such as tantrums, toilet training, and aggression. This year, 12 families received one-on-one consultations to learn effective parenting strategies to address such behaviors. 14 parents received phone consultation services by calling our Parent's Ask Line (PAL). Next month, 11,100 elementary school children will receive Triple P magnets advertising for the PAL line. This will build awareness about the our 24 hour, 7 days a week phone line, while serving as a valuable resource for community parents in need of support. Parenting seminars have been the most recent addition to Triple P services. Currently, there are 3 parents enrolled to participate in our Positive Parenting Seminar at the end of January. While some parents receive only Triple P services, others benefit from a multitude of parenting programs. Since January 2012, 30 FSN families utilized Triple P services in combination with other parenting programs. FSN's partnerships allowed for even more families to be reached in the community. This year, 52 additional families received services from four other community agencies certified in Triple P.

Family Support Network (FSN) primarily serves families that the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) identifies for being at risk for abuse or neglect. Implementing Triple P has allowed FSN to expand its services and reach out to families who are in need of support but not yet involved with DPHHS. Through Triple P, parents learn the skills necessary to build healthy families, and provide better lives for their children. The program has shown positive long term results, such as the reduction of delinquency and homelessness, in communities around the world. Additionally, graduates of Triple P go on to be more independent, resourceful, and confident.



Christmas presents, from an anonymous donor who adopted 20 of our families this year for our Adopt-a-Family for Christmas program.



GALLATIN CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT VISTA: KATHERINE CREVI

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$24,200 raised
141 volunteers recruited

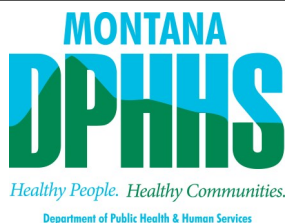
Overall Goal of the project: To organize a Community Health Assessment and Improvement process, which engages individual citizens, citizen groups, and agencies throughout Gallatin County to identify and address key health issues.

Capacity Built: Two reports were published as a result of this initiative: The Gallatin County 2012 Community Health Profile and the Gallatin County 2012 Community Health Improvement Plan. I helped gather data through an extensive assessment and organized and analyzed the data to create The Community Health Profile which provides information about health assets and challenges throughout the county. I worked with community groups and stakeholders to create a Community Health Improvement Plan, which outlines plans to improve the health of residents in Gallatin County.

Increase the number of clients served and the number of services provided: Many health service organizations in the county are located in Bozeman and provide a majority of their services to residents located in and around Bozeman. However, during the assessment process, we reached out to residents in outlying communities to listen to health concerns and assets. After the health discussions in outlying communities, participants felt empowered to work with the Health Department to expand or improve the services available in their communities. The Improvement Plan includes expanding services throughout the county through increasing public transportation options, expanding mental health services through telemedicine, and increasing the accessibility of preventive health care screenings including mammograms and blood pressure screenings. Furthermore, more residents will receive needed services, especially pre-natal services, due to the collaborative work with healthcare providers and the network of systems navigators that the plan lays out.

Support the organization's efforts in the community: The Community Health Profile and Improvement Plan are documents available for community members and organizations within the community and support the Health Department's goals of monitoring health issues, informing people about health issues, and mobilizing community partnerships. These documents are also prerequisites for Public Health Department Accreditation, to align the health department with national standards.

Move individuals and communities out of poverty: The Improvement process and documents that I helped create will improve health and keep individuals and communities out of poverty. By addressing the root causes of poor health, including environment, education, and access to health services, the Improvement Plan aligns organizations to prevent poverty. Through the assessment, we learned that forty-four percent of individuals below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level in Gallatin County are uninsured in Gallatin County, nearly twice as many as those above 200%. When confronted with a high-cost medical emergency, individuals without insurance may be forced into poverty, but ensuring individuals can easily access recommended preventive screenings may avoid high-cost emergency room treatments.



GREAT FALLS WEED & SEED VISTA: Jillian Jennings

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$1025 raised
\$675 in-kind donations
23 volunteers recruited
42 new clients served

Through my efforts, the Transition Coalition has reached 48 members of which 40 are new partnerships for Great Falls Weed and Seed. With these relationships, we are able to link people and services together and create an open line of communication, which has not been able to happen in the past.

Communication between different entities in the community is vital to the sustainability and success of reduction in recidivism. This capacity building effort has helped bring together organizations that will provide in-kind, on-going educational and life skill training to the state side inmates at Great Falls Regional Prison. Her second year of service will build the capacity of the Coalition to make it sustainable. Intended end outcomes include having one or more agencies active in the Coalition agreeing to sustain and carry on the work after her second term of service ends.

The Transition Coalition has worked to achieve 2 major goals of Weed and Seed, which include:

- Creating a strong network of stakeholders and providing them with a means and an opportunity to talk, exchange ideas and build upon each other's work so that various agencies are not duplicating one another's work.
- The second is to identify the major barriers for reentry and find workable, sustainable solutions for those gaps in service for three of them.

The Transition Coalition has completed and engaged in several different projects to increase the amount of people we are helping and serving as a community. We have worked to complete and publish a comprehensive directory of transition services (in three formats) available to felons as they leave jail or prison and return to the community. Our Great Falls Regional Prison statewide representative has taken over and become responsible for the distribution of these guides to ex offenders in need.

Another project the Transition Coalition is currently working on is education and life skills classes for inmates. The inmates have selected 3 classes out of the list that were provided to them for the inmate's needs assessment survey that we conducted in January. These classes include budgeting, rental to homeownership options, and a curriculum specially designed for transitioning back into the community and will be taught by 3 different non profits in-kind. I will be tracking the data output for each class in my second year of services, so we can see the direct impact we are having on inmate education. Each class that teaches will be required by the Transition Coalition to have a pre- and post-test, so we are able to measure our level of impact.

Recidivism in the community is a difficult variable to measure; however, most of the inmates in Great Falls Regional Prison are coming back into poverty-ridden areas. Therefore, by educating these inmates we are giving them the tools necessary to overcome the barriers and live a crime free and sustainable lifestyle.



GROW MONTANA VISTA: Sarah Bhimani

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

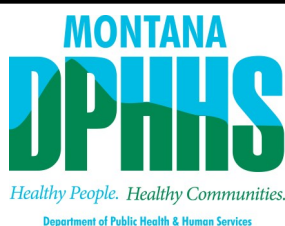
\$1565 raised
\$550 in-kind donations
30 volunteers recruited
20 new clients served



Capacity for Montana FoodCorps was built by the AmeriCorps VISTA in a number of different ways. Sarah created a draft communications plan that will be utilized by organization staff to plan future communication activities, including targeting group and individual presentations; informing statewide school districts, funders, and community members about FoodCorps; and promoting the program for future recruitment. As part of the draft communications plan, the VISTA created documents and templates that will be used by organizational staff and FoodCorps members for distributing information about the FoodCorps program. She also completed an LOI for a significant grant from a national foundation.

Sarah worked closely with the 9 FoodCorps members across the state, as well as with their site supervisors and FoodCorps program evaluators to assess the impact FoodCorps had statewide in terms of nutrition education, school gardens, and local procurement by school cafeterias. Additionally, Sarah helped recruit and review incoming FoodCorps members for the 2012-2013 program year, thus helping to ensure sustainability and expansion of the FoodCorps program.

By helping to support, expand, and sustain the FoodCorps program, Sarah has helped move individuals and communities out of poverty. As communities start to adopt healthy, local eating habits, not only will individuals' health improve (fewer medical expenses), but also the health of communities will improve by supporting local businesses and farmers. Additionally, children who eat healthily do better in school and tend to adopt healthier living habits, helping them to become productive citizens and future consumers.



JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT VISTAS: Elyse Rioux & Sam Mooneyhan

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

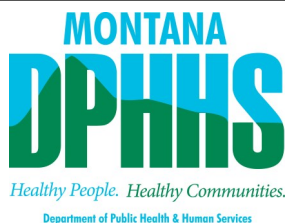
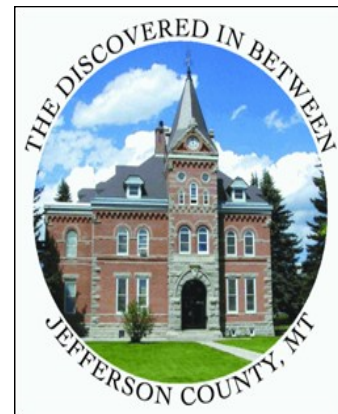
\$525 raised
\$370 in-kind donations
49 volunteers recruited
119 new clients served

This year we completed a community health needs assessment for the Jefferson County Public Health Department. This assessment is designed to figure out what the health needs of the county's citizens are and the best way to meet these needs through a process of community outreach, internal review, and data collection. Information for the needs assessment included statistically relevant data, personal interviews, community meetings, and an in-house evaluation of services and organization. This is the first assessment which has been completed by the Health Department, and it was our job to understand the assessment process and make it easy for future staff to repeat.

A large portion of our assignment consisted of gathering data and developing community partnerships to create community ownership of the Health Assessment. We interviewed or worked with 42 key community members and 28 organizations. These new partnerships not only identified community priorities, but also created more resident exposure of health services and expanded the visibility of the Jefferson County Public Health Department. Using a variety of media including newspaper, radio, and web-blog, the public was kept informed during every step of our assessment process. This assessment made health related data more readily accessible and user friendly for all community members to utilize.

Since this was the first Community Health Assessment ever done by the health department, it was important to leave detailed directions for repeating the assessment in three to five years. By repeating this assessment every few years, the health department can monitor health trends in the population and change their services to meet the needs of the community. In order to make repeats of the assessment easier we created checklists, information on creating and distribution of surveys, and listed problems we had along the way.

By targeting needs in the community, we hope to encourage healthy lifestyles in Jefferson County. Healthier people spend less money on healthcare and are less likely to exhibit destructive behaviors such as alcohol and drug abuse. By providing a proven and effective means of community evaluation of needs and services, the health department can be more fiscally efficient and socially relevant. We now know where the communities concerns lie and the means to address those concerns. Services available to those that are financially impoverished are easier to find, access, and use. By accessing these services, individuals have more income to spend on improving their status into a more secure, safe position.



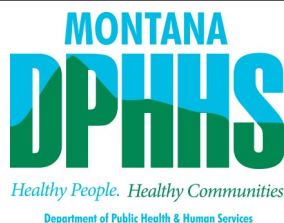
MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF MONTANA VISTA: Stephanie DeGroat

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

AmeriCorps VISTA Stephanie DeGroat, has been strategic and exerted great efforts to assist Mental Health America of Montana (MHA-MT) with building capacity. Stephanie has been instrumental in developing programming to accomplish our mission of educating and advocating for the mental wellbeing of all Montanans. These efforts have included but are not limited to the following:

- Expanded and reinvented the **Preventing and Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Montana (PRISM)** Project from solely a university student engagement to adding Middle and High School students
- Collaborated with state of Montana Suicide Prevention office efforts to educate, engage, and prevent suicide
- Her efforts have resulted in over 160 submissions of suicide prevention posters created by youth for the community from the three recruited school districts Bozeman, Glasgow and Custer County
- Created presentations and marketing materials to increase awareness of the issue of suicide in Montana and detail how communities can be involved in suicide prevention efforts
- Made presentations at conferences for the Montana Association of Student Councils, School Mental Health, the MBI Summer Institute, and the Youth Leadership and Advocacy Training hosted by the System of Care
- Assisted in building two conferences on mental health
 - Eastern Montana Mental Health Conference: Mental Health Strategies for Rural/Frontier Communities
 - 4th Annual Children's Mental Health Conference: Childhood Trauma – Abuse Casts a Long Shadow

These efforts have allowed our programs to reach a population we have not historically served. Research shows that suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 to 34. Reaching this cohort in need has also provided us with a great opportunity to extend our partnership to the public school system. Stephanie's educational presentations to a variety of organizations have enhanced our collaborative efforts with others serving the community. Collaborating with such organizations allows us to share resources and information that may be very valuable to our members and those we serve.



MONTANA FOOD BANK NETWORK

VISTA: Courtney McGuire

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

My year of service was focused on increasing participation in school breakfast (SBP) and summer food programs (SFSP) in communities throughout the state. As a VISTA with MFBN, the organization offered me the opportunity to work on state-wide and community-specific initiatives. I was also encouraged to think about how child nutrition efforts can fit into the larger goal of ending hunger and reducing poverty in the state.

My project was focused on increasing participation in SBP and SFSP among low-income, school-aged children. Both programs are open and beneficial to children who do not qualify for free or reduced price (FRP) lunches, but I mainly focused on expanding outreach to lower income children. On a state-wide level, I developed a report card for both school breakfast and summer food. The "Montana School Breakfast Report Card" graded school districts based on how many FRP students ate breakfast for each one eating lunch. It provided action steps for Superintendents and Principals, School Food Service Directors, and parents and teachers. The "Montana SFSP Report Card" graded counties on how many kids ate a summer meal for each child who ate a free or reduced price lunch during the school year. It provided action steps for Superintendents, Principals, School Food Service Directors, Parents and Teachers as well as businesses and local nonprofits.

Using data from the Office of Public Instruction, I was able to isolate communities who were close to qualifying for a SFSP site. I then contacted 133 superintendents and principals to outline the importance of the FRP program and encourage them to do continual outreach. This project helped reinforce the need for FRP outreach in order to enroll more children in the program. Using the same OPI enrollment data, I conducted outreach to 16 school districts about SFSP and worked with six communities in developing a site for this summer or in planning for a site in the future.

MFBN has provided me with a multitude of opportunities to support their efforts across Montana. I interviewed food pantry clients in nine communities to learn about their struggles with hunger and their opinions on child nutrition programs. The resulting Client Hunger Survey will be used to support legislative and community efforts to strengthen nutrition programs. I also conducted outreach at two mobile food pantries and attended different school personnel conferences to table for school breakfast programs. I created an educational video in which clients discuss their experiences with hunger and child nutrition programs to help others learn about the challenges in these clients' lives and the importance of these programs.

Through targeted outreach and general educational projects, I have been able to increase access and awareness of SBP and SFSP programs in Montana. Transition documents and continual discussions over the past year will allow the MFBN staff to continue these efforts. Working relationships with staff at the Office of Public Instruction, Team Nutrition and various school districts will transfer to the public policy staff. The past year has increased the visibility of MFBN's work in child nutrition issues and will continue as the staff works to expand access to all nutrition programs.



NATIONAL COALITION BUILDING INSTITUTE

VISTAs: Jessica Peterson & Kim Spurzem

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$41,785 raised
\$11,000 in-kind donations
164 volunteers recruited
473 new clients served



In accordance with the AmeriCorps VISTA program's goal to strengthen and support organizations, VISTAs Jessica Peterson and Kim Spurzem completed a variety of tasks to accomplish this goal at National Coalition Building Institute of Missoula (NCBI). Also, included in this report is a brief synopsis of how these efforts will aid in moving more individuals and communities with less than enough resources forward in hopes of eventually interrupting the cycle of poverty.

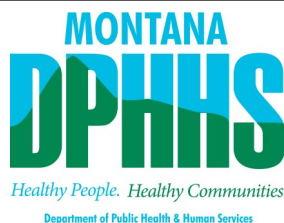
First, the VISTA members spent a significant amount of time increasing the number of clients served. This was done in various capacities at NCBI. Initially, Kim researched, refined, and developed research-based curriculum for NCBI School-Based Programs. Kim assisted in gaining a contract from the Missoula County Public School (MCPS) system to provide more trainings and programs within the school district. During the 2012-2013 school year NCBI will train all 5th and 9th graders in NCBI's Violence Prevention and Prejudice Reduction model. In addition, NCBI will be piloting NCBI's after-school program Respect Club at a Title I school. From there NCBI will move into all Title I elementary schools in Missoula during the 2013-2014 school year.

Kim and Jessica examined current means of communication and refined the ways in which NCBI connects to both its volunteer and donor base. In the ever changing world of technology it is vital that NCBI utilize services such as Facebook, online blogs, and mass text messaging services to connect with individuals who do not utilize traditional means of communication such as email and phone messages. Jessica assisted the marketing committee by developing a marketing plan the committee will implement in the coming year.

The VISTAs aided NCBI's effort in community based work in various roles. Initially they created evaluation tools and aided in writing a report that was completed for the city of Missoula on the relocation of their only shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. The VISTAs also assisted in facilitating community discussions around the recent sexual assaults in Missoula. In addition, Kim was engaged as a member of various community groups and forums to provide necessary feedback and resources to move the community of Missoula forward in creating a safer and more inclusive community for all individuals and groups.

The fundraising aspect of Jessica's work included identifying potential funders and following up appropriately, editing grants as needed, and spearheading the annual appeal. This work will continue through the donor committee and our development associate.

In summary, the VISTAs completed a variety of work that was vital toward moving NCBI toward their mission. Though NCBI's mission is not to directly move individuals and communities out of poverty, NCBI is committed to creating a more inclusive and welcoming community for these individuals. NCBI does this by creating a world with more information about those with less than enough resources. By providing service providers and community members with more information it decreases the mistreatment due to stereotypes and allows individuals to see the whole person, not just their financial background. NCBI works to change how institutions work with those with less than enough resources by aiding in overcoming systemic inequalities by changing policies and organizational values to create a safer place for individuals to receive services. And lastly, by empowering this marginalized group NCBI hopes to provide these individuals with leadership skills and more esteem to take on leadership roles at home, work, and in the community at large, interrupt the mistreatment of individuals who have less than enough resources, and to participate in transforming institutions that oppress individuals in their group.



OPPORTUNITY LINK, INC.

VISTA: SAMANTHA RYBICKI

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$500 raised for community projects
\$100,000 managed in in-kind funds
300 volunteers recruited
1 new program created



- Overall Goal of the projects:
 - a. Community Service Program: streamline volunteer tracking and communications between Opportunity Link and the courts.
 - b. Workin' With Tradition: solidify training expansion plan, establish pricing for training implementation, and develop supplementary resources for the training curriculum.
 - c. National Park Service Save America's Treasures Grant: manage grant and assist in generating \$100,000 in matching funds to restore the Old Havre Post Office.
- What capacity was built for the organization and is it sustainable?
 - a. CSV: assisted software developer in creating a data system for tracking CSV volunteers and their hours in order to raise the efficiency of data management and communications among volunteers and courts.
 - b. WWT: helped develop pricing for training services, marketing materials and strategies, and supplementary teaching resources for soft skills, including the curriculum for an interviewing workshop.
 - c. NPS Post Office Project: developed a working relationship with the building restorers to establish a placement for community service volunteers at the Old Post Office.
- How the capacity built and other efforts have or will:
 - a. Increase the number of clients served, who are the clients, and how many were served?
With a strong, defined pricing and curriculum for the WWT program along with developed marketing materials, the WWT program will be expanded to other clients, and included a new client on the Rocky Boy Reservation within the VISTA's year.
 - b. Improve or increase the number of services provided and a brief description on these services?
Improved the services provided for soft skills training by developing an interviewing workshop curriculum that can be applied to any soft skills training course.
 - c. Support the organization's efforts in the community?
Served in the community during AmeriCorps projects, informational fairs and events, and by giving presentations to other organizations, committees, and groups about Opportunity Link's impact and services.
 - d. How will the VISTA's work move individuals and communities out of poverty?
The volunteer program and WWT program teach individuals soft skills as well as vocational skills to increase their employability. The contributions made to these programs will increase their ability to help others achieve their goals.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH RESOURCES VISTA: Danielle Hamm

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

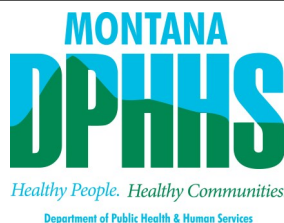
\$10,150 raised
\$12,360 in-kind donations
74 volunteers recruited
25 new clients served



Rocky Mountain Youth Resources (RMYR) serves clients ages 12-21 at the Jan Shaw Therapeutic Youth Home for girls and the Margaret Stuart Youth Home for boys and girls. Between the two youth homes, RMYR can house up to 14 youth at one time. Serving more than 100 youth from all over the state of Montana each year, RMYR helps youth that are referred through the Department of Family Services and Youth Court, those that are runaways, homeless or have nowhere else to go. Rocky Mountain Youth Resources serves on average 20 youth per year through our family support Wraparound program. Our new Transitional Living Program serves up to 25 foster care youth preparing to age out of the system in the next two years. Additionally, now that our Jan Shaw Youth Home is Therapeutic, the in-home therapist sees up to 10 outpatient clients per year.

Serving with the Director, our VISTA built capacity within the programs of Rocky Mountain Youth Resources (RMYR), supporting the organization's infrastructure in years to come. By developing and carrying out the groundwork for a Development Coordinator position at RMYR, our VISTA uncovered potential funding sources to able program service expansion, allowing for RMYR to fill in the gaps of youth resources in our community. Through organizational PR development, fundraising efforts, and community outreach objectives, our VISTA served to inform the public of community needs regarding impoverished and at-risk youth, calling for community action. Throughout the past year, our VISTA designed a development calendar and grant management system for Rocky Mountain Youth Resources, organizing and planning future funding efforts to be sustained following the service year. This included researching and uncovering additional resources, grant research and writing, formulation and facilitation of fundraising plans and community outreach.

The efforts of our VISTA's project, aligning with the PRC Project Level Work Plan's overall expectations, was to solicit funding for RMYR's programs; one program of particular focus being our Independent Living Training (ILT) program. ILT is education based, increasing resiliency factors and focusing on teaching youth how to transition and succeed in the adult world. RMYR is taking preemptive measure to combat youth risk behaviors, poverty, homelessness, and to prepare these young adults for life on their own.



WORD NORTH VALLEY FAMILY CENTER VISTA: Tracy Kutzleb

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$500 raised
\$1300 in-kind donations
63 volunteers recruited
76 new clients served



VISTA Traci Kutzleb was able to help build capacity at the North Valley Family Center, the Family Resource Center located in Florence, MT, and a program of Women's Opportunity and Resource Development, Inc. Tracy was able to build capacity through the transfer of knowledge and products; by keeping records of everything that was completed and worked on as a VISTA, as well as expanding and strengthening processes that are used at the Center. Through meeting people and building on year long relationships, Tracy was able to effectively motivate community members in Florence and North Bitterroot communities on local issues, as well as help them come together to create change within their community. Many dedicated volunteers were recruited that have been committed to volunteering for the North Valley Family Center. Many of Tracy's efforts will continue to be sustainable during the next year, particularly the relationships that have been built within the North Bitterroot communities, as well as community awareness about the Center's programs, mission, and goals as a Family Resource Center.

Because the North Valley Family Center is a Family Resource Center and serves all people of all different ages, the clients served are of all demographics. Through Tracy's efforts, the North Valley Family Center served a total of 1,681 people during her term. Out of those, 652 were male participants, while 904 were female; 343 were children ages 0-8 and 573 were children ages 8-18.

In addition to the services listed above, Tracy developed and implemented other classes and programs which was a direct increase in the amount of services provided. These services included classes or events in topics of parenting education, child safety, community awareness, parent and child groups, Family Resource Center specific activities, Parent Leadership activities, and resource and referrals. Specifically Tracy helped implement the After School tutoring program and planned special events, such as the April Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, which included the 2nd Annual Parent, Baby and Toddler Luncheon, with free pony rides, the Senior and 8th grade Conversation Café, and the April Child Abuse Prevention Month Contest! Additionally, Tracy planned the National GO (Get Outdoors) Day NVFC's face painting booth, and the NVFC's Soap and Paper Drive, which resulted in a total of 259 items donated, with an estimated worth of \$300.00.

With help from the VISTA, the capacity built into the programs and services offered by the NVFC will eventually help move individuals out of poverty. The NVFC is a place that offers parents a chance to engage and take part in their children's lives, which can give kids what they need to succeed in the future (Search Institute 40 Developmental Assets). This can eventually lead an individual or a whole community out of poverty. A foundation for many of the center's programs has been created, and as long as the Center's doors are open, parents, families, children, or any community member will be able to have a place to go for help and support.



YWCA OF MISSOULA

GUTS! PROGRAM

VISTA: ERIN BARSTOW

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$9,000 raised
\$35,000 in kind raised
60 volunteers recruited
200 new clients served

The three primary goals of my AmeriCorps term are to 1) Continue to strengthen the GUTS! Strategic Plan to best support the growth and replication of this program and to work towards its first year of implementation. 2) Identify \$10,000 of new financial support for the GUTS! project. 3) Research, establish and support three new community partnerships in implementing girls' leadership programs. By increasing the capacity of the GUTS! program in the areas of Partnerships, Resource Development and Strategic Plan, I effectively created a stronger, more sustainable GUTS! program. The increased financial support will assist the program in transitioning to an additional full-time staff member, elevating the capacity of this program. The new state-wide partnerships positively impact this program by laying the groundwork for its expansion and larger funding opportunities. The strategic plan serves the monumental purpose of providing an underlying structure and organization to this program's growth and development.

Capacity building highlights:

- ⇒ During my 2012-2013 term over 200 nine to eleven year old girls in and around Missoula, ranging greatly in ethnic and socio-economic diversity, participated in GUTS! after school, summer camp, and high school leadership programs. This number continues to increase as the programs in rural communities flourish. I helped recruit and retain over 60 women community mentors as volunteer facilitators of these programs.
- ⇒ To meet the changing needs of Montana's girls, our programs are appropriately girl-driven; I worked with staff and participants to create relevant and applicable curriculum and to establish exciting community partnerships to strengthen the existing GUTS! empowerment programs. Collaboration with community organizations, invested stakeholders and participants will lead to more effective programming resulting in an increase in developmental assets including quality after school programming, increased leadership opportunities and increased community involvement for Montana's girls. This in turn results in increased self-esteem—an important protective factor for young women.
- ⇒ GUTS! maintains a positive reputation in the Missoula community, of which is expanding with the growth of our programs to communities outside Missoula. Six communities outside Missoula (one of which is outside the state of Montana) are in the process of implementing GUTS!-like programs. Our outreach and work with youth in Missoula receive community praise and local media attention. We believe this work and recognition will strengthen our individual donor base.
- ⇒ Supporting rural communities to establish sustainable girls' leadership programs will increase the protective factors of the youth involved, thus decreasing their likelihood to participate in risky behavior, specifically substance abuse and unwanted teen pregnancy. We know that building assets such as healthy mentoring relationships with adults and a connection to their community will increase chances to move up in the world and to be successful. GUTS! works to grow the strong women leaders of tomorrow.



BELGRADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS VISTA: Nicole Gottschall

EDUCATION
VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$45,638 raised
\$3150 in-kind donations
111 volunteers recruited
267 new clients served

My year of service was spent in Belgrade Public Schools to work on dropout prevention and alcohol prevention. While the main focus was on creating positive alternative programs for youth in the schools I also focused efforts on initiating programs within the community. I worked primarily with the Belgrade Youth Forum and the Belgrade Community Library to create these programs.



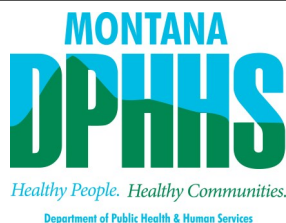
It is the mission of the Belgrade Youth Forum (BYF) to encourage and promote positive youth development. Belgrade Youth Forum is a coalition committed to connecting youth, parents, school and community to create opportunities for youth to thrive and succeed. The VISTA saw their mission as a mission for the whole community to rally around, Belgrade parents and youth are not very connected to each other or their community and they want to see this change. One of the subcommittees of the group is the 5 Kids Project, the group pays five Belgrade youth (ages 15-18) to give their opinions on things they would like to see changed in the community and also to create fun activities for youth. In November they hosted a turkey bowling event to donate turkeys to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. I also helped the group write two grants for \$10,000 each, facilitated discussions, and helped the group through the 501 (c) 3 process.

Whenever I created or initiated a program within the district I kept the idea of capacity in mind and AmeriCorps goal of building sustainability, so with that in mind I made sure that there were people who were committed to following through with an idea, project, or program. In September I was asked by the local Kiwanis Club to create a Key Club in the high school, I was able to do this with the help of a committed teacher and the group was very successful in its first year.

One of the main issues that Belgrade youth face is that there isn't a community center, YMCA, or something similar. A lot of small communities face this issue, but Belgrade's attempt at rectifying this is by creating alternative programs. That's where I came in. It's easy to increase the number of services provided when there aren't many to begin with. The community library had a good base of programs, but they were mainly for children, I met with them and discussed increasing their young adult fiction section, increasing participation in the Teen Book Club, and doing trainings on HomeworkMT (a free online tutoring program). Within the school district I helped to bring in more parent participation through a free parent training class done by Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch.

Since Candy Lubansky took on the job of Superintendent two years ago her goal has been to connect the district more to the community by reaching out to other organizations and businesses in the community. When BYF was started Candy was one of the founding members and saw BYF as a gateway to the community. She now serves in their board of directors and in a few years will take on the task of being board chair. Part of my job this year has been to continue to connect with the community and see what I can do from a district standpoint.

In the future I believe that more Belgrade residents will move their way out of poverty by graduating high school. Youth will be more committed to graduating when they see that others care whether or not they do graduate. Youth will be more connected to the community and resources within the community that can help them get out of poverty.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CARBON COUNTY

VISTA: Amanda Paramore

EDUCATION
VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

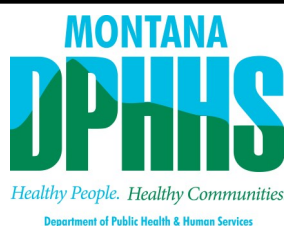
\$56,304 raised
\$6,546 in-kind donations
143 volunteers recruited
474 new clients served

Amanda has increased the internal organization of the Boys & Girls Club of Carbon County by creating a standard filing system and new/revised forms. Having a standard filing system that is used by all staff on every computer and data file enables sustainability and cohesiveness in the organization. New staff can now learn the filing system to access data quickly instead of hunting for data that was previously filed based on individual preference. The new/revised forms were created based on assessments of previous functions and processes and improved to aid in time management. This allows staff to spend more time working on other sustainability efforts like grants, partnerships, fundraisers, program delivery improvement and volunteer recruitment.

Amanda assessed and improved a plan to strengthen the volunteer recruitment and sustainability program. With a stronger volunteer presence, more programs will be implemented, increasing the number of youth served as well. By attending high-yield learning activities conducted by staff and volunteers, youth will increase their resiliency and reduce risky behaviors. Utilizing trusted volunteer and staff mentors, youth will also have additional opportunities to learn employment skills, reducing the poverty rate. She also encouraged Club youth to volunteer for a variety of community improvement projects.

Amanda worked to expand and evaluate fundraisers. She evaluated each fundraiser and provided suggestion for improvement in the future. The funds raised assure the Club is able to serve youth effectively year after year. These fundraisers were vital to both operating and expansion costs. Through the capital funds raised with VISTA help, the Club now has improved and expanded space to serve more youth and their families.

Amanda worked to increase the presence of the Club in the community. By developing the new Club website, assisting with distributing newsletters and program flyers, she increased the knowledge of opportunities provided by the Club for youth and families. With this improved community awareness, more youth will attend positive, life-improving programs. Parents can also more easily access Club forms to register their children for Club programs. Not only did this awareness provide families with additional resources for their youth, it also created awareness in the community of youth as a valuable resource. Several organizations and individual community members contacted the Club to request assistance by Club teens in a variety of community improvement projects, including creating a community Youth Garden, beautifying a park area and reducing electronic waste. Red Lodge youth are considered a gem in the community. VISTA was instrumental in building solid partnerships with various organizations, providing a cohesive unified community helping to reduce the risky behaviors in youth. These partnerships have increased the programs/services available to build the skills youth have.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF DEER LODGE COUNTY VISTA: Jamie Roessler

EDUCATION
VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$37,825 raised
\$950 in-kind donations
108 volunteers recruited
194 new clients served



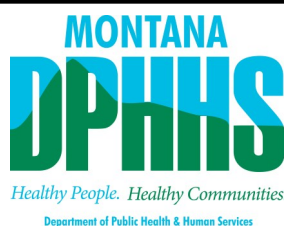
Jamie began serving the Anaconda Family Resource Center as a VISTA in July of 2010. Her project was to research the feasibility of establishing a Boys & Girls Club in Deer Lodge County. After presenting this research to her supervisor and the Anaconda Family Resource Center Board of Directors, she developed a Boys & Girls Club Advisory Board. She organized Advisory Board meetings until the board disbanded in March, due to the establishment of Boys & Girls Club of Deer Lodge County. This increased the number and quality of services provided by the organization, due to the resources available through Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Throughout her first year of service, Jamie worked with the organization's Location Committee as it sought to secure a sustainable relocation option for the Anaconda Family Resource Center | Boys & Girls Club of Deer Lodge County. As part of this ambitious endeavor, she assisted her supervisor and the Location Committee with the writing and management of a CDBG Planning Grant. This grant funded a Preliminary Architectural Report, which was completed in July of 2012. The completion of this report provides the information necessary for the organization's Board of Directors to select a relocation site, as well as the documentation necessary for many large capital grants.

All nonprofit organizations struggle to achieve financial sustainability. Throughout her two VISTA terms Jamie has strived to assist the organization diversify its funding sources. Jamie helped the organization's Chief Professional Officer with grant writing and research. She also played an active role in the organization's Events Task Force, which developed and implemented two fundraising events. These events will be held every year and are expected to become highly anticipated events in the community. Working with the Board of Directors, Jamie assisted with the development and implementation of the organization's first annual giving campaign, called It Just Takes One. Like the two fundraising events, this campaign will occur annually.

Aside from these two focal points, Jamie also assisted the organization's Marketing Committee with public awareness campaigns and efforts. The efforts of this committee helped increase community awareness of the organization and the number of participants involved in its programming.

The Anaconda Family Resource Center | Boys & Girls Club of Deer Lodge County provides both prevention and intervention services, thereby holistically addressing the needs of local youth and families. The organization has been empowering individuals to lift themselves from poverty for over twenty years. Jamie's efforts to help the organization achieve sustainability, while strengthening and growing its preventive programs, will ultimately allow the Anaconda Family Resource Center | Boys & Girls Club of Deer Lodge County to continue fulfilling this crucial need in the community.



LIVINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

VISTA: REBECCA NAAB

EDUCATION
VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$3000 raised
182 volunteers recruited
300 new clients served

Before having a PRC VISTA the idea for a Farm to School program was simply an idea of multiple community members. The idea had steam, but a failed grant attempt to push the movement forward deflated the movement. Luckily, Livingston Public Schools was able to move forward by enacting Plan B of securing a VISTA to help coordinate and get the Farm to School program in Livingston rolling.



The amount of capacity that has been built for the program has been exponential. Now Farm to School isn't simply an idea of a few community "foodies", it is becoming embedded in the food culture of Livingston. The children of Livingston School District have begun to become educated on the importance of the basic Farm to School topics which include nutrition and agriculture. Students have expanded not only their knowledge of food and nutrition, but their palates as well. Through the Farm to School program students have been given more access and education about fruits and vegetables. Teachers have joined on board incorporating Farm to School principals in a rigorous and inter-disciplinary way. Students are taking knowledge of what they have learned in the classroom and sharing it, and in turn, educating their parents.

The community's receptiveness to the Farm to School program has allowed it to flourish and grow. By securing multiple micro-grants from within the community as well as putting together fundraising events, the program now has a funding stream to provide even more educational programming, garden infrastructure, and professional development for teachers.

It is a VISTA's job to reduce poverty, and while it might not be completely obvious how creating a Farm to School program relates to poverty, the connection is most definitely there. Close to half of the students at Livingston Public School are eligible for free and reduced breakfast and lunch. Many students eat a majority of their daily calories at school. In conjunction with food service, the Farm to School program continues to work to make sure the calories these students are receiving are the most nutrient-dense calories they can receive. Studies have proven children who eat healthy meals are able to focus more and do better in school. By fueling students the right way through the Farm to School program, Livingston Public Schools hopes to see more students excelling academically which in turn can prepare them for a successful future.



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

VISTA: VERONICA WILLETO

EDUCATION
VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

\$600 in kind raised
60 volunteers recruited

The purpose of Schools of Promise is to transform the high-poverty, low achieving public schools in Montana into high achieving schools. The overall goal of the VISTA project was to work with three Schools of Promise receiving the School Improvement Grant funding – Pryor, Lame Deer, and Frazer – and their School Community Liaisons to build the capacity of their student, parent, and community engagement initiatives in order to improve student achievement overall.

The capacity built for the SIG schools includes training, tools and resources for students, parents, community members, and school personnel. As a result of the capacity built, the school staff and faculty are developing partnerships and community groups in order to communicate and share resources when addressing critical issues concerning the youth in the community. The students have created student engagement initiatives such as after-school clubs and student lounges, as well as developed personal leadership skills. The school staff and faculty are serving as leaders of the Parent Teacher Home Visit Project. With community members leading these efforts, many of the initiatives started will be sustainable.

The clients served were students, parents and community members. Through the support, infrastructure and training the VISTA, in collaboration with other SIG staff, has provided, school and community will be able to expand efforts to build stronger collaborations and gain greater strides in improving academic achievement and the wellbeing of students. The effort put forth by the VISTA helped to increase the kinds of services the schools provide. All the schools now offer home visits and are beginning to have active student councils and afterschool programs. All the schools also now organize community events to be more open and welcoming to the community. Furthermore, the partnerships and community groups developed will improve the school's image in the community. Tribal, state and federal departments and programs, nonprofit organizations, and businesses will support the school, sharing their resources with the school, and working with the school to help students succeed. Overall, the VISTA's work with the Schools of Promise has helped to ensure more students in these public schools on these American Indian Reservations will graduate college and career ready, which will lead to these students having a greater chance of moving out of poverty or avoiding the pitfall of poverty all together.



Boys & Girls Clubs

Anaconda, Havre, Lame Deer, Malta,
Missoula, Red Lodge, Ronan

EDUCATION
VETERANS

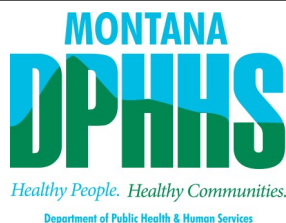
QUICK FACTS:

12 VISTAs
\$338,884 raised
1025 volunteers recruited
2330 youth served



For five years, Prevention Resource Center AmeriCorps VISTA members have served 7 Boys & Girls Clubs in Montana. They have raised \$338,884 to support positive youth development; recruited over 1000 volunteers; and put in place systems – from volunteer programs to fundraisers – that allow Boys & Girls Clubs to operate with increased efficiency, ease, and productivity.

Boys & Girls Clubs are community centers that give kids a place to go afterschool when they are most likely to be unsupervised. Boys & Girls Clubs provide snacks and/or meals, homework assistance and other activities that keep children engaged in their schools and communities during the peak juvenile crime period of 3-7 pm. We are proud that our partnership is effectively addressing childhood hunger, school drop-out prevention, and juvenile crime rates while serving those who are in greatest need - impoverished children.



Healthy Montana Kids Program

Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

8 VISTAs
560 enrollment partners recruited
266 cooperative partnerships formed
18,444 additional children enrolled



The Healthy Montana Kids (HMK) program hosted eight AmeriCorps VISTA members - 5 funded by the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act - in Billings, Helena, and Missoula from 2009-2011. Healthy Montana Kids, which officially launched on October 1, 2009, is an expanded health coverage program for children and teenagers. HMK basically couples children's Medicaid with the former Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) and expands income guidelines to cover thousands more Montana children.

"The HMK VISTAs started from scratch: new program, new name, new audience," HMK Community Relations Manager Mike Mahoney said. "The VISTAs helped develop critical elements of HMK training, outreach and promotion. The entire HMK program would not be where it is without them."

The HMK VISTAs helped recruit and train more than 500 Enrollment Partners around the state. Enrollment Partners are volunteers who receive special training to assist families in applying for HMK. They also built partnerships with over 200 employers, service organizations, and community partners statewide who help spread the word about HMK.

As of May 2012, over 18,000 additional children have been enrolled in the Healthy Montana Kids Program.



Mental Health America of Montana

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

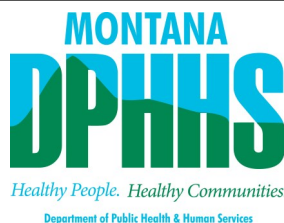
QUICK FACTS:

5 VISTAs
\$16,200 raised
50 volunteers recruited
814 individuals served



Over the last five years, Prevention Resource Center AmeriCorps VISTA members serving Mental Health America of Montana raised over \$16,000 to support mental health services and suicide prevention; recruited over 50 volunteers and 200 youth to participate in programs like PRISM, and put in place systems – from creating marketing materials to improving internal systems – that allow MHA of MT to operate with increased efficiency, ease, and productivity.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Montana youth ages 15-24. In 2011, with the help of an AmeriCorps VISTA, MHA of MT reached more than 800 individuals through programs like PRISM (Preventing & Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Montana), Eastern Montana Mental Health Conference, and the Children's Mental Health Conference. VISTAs also partnered with the Montana Associate of Student Councils, MBI Summer Institute, and Youth MOVE. We are proud that our partnership is effectively addressing some of the root causes of youth depression, violence and self-harm - which are all contributing factors of poverty.



National Coalition Building Institute

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

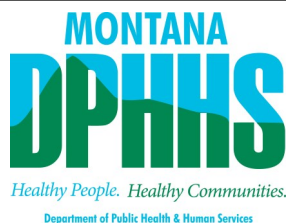
QUICK FACTS:

5 VISTAs
\$115,660 raised
560 volunteers recruited
5086 individuals served



Over the last three years, Prevention Resource Center AmeriCorps VISTA members serving NCBI raised over \$115,000 to support positive youth development; recruited over 200 youth and adult trainers to lead prevention programs across Montana; and put in place systems – from database management to computer networking – that allow NCBI to operate with increased efficiency, ease, and productivity.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Montana youth ages 15-24. In 2011, with the help of a Prevention Resource Center AmeriCorps VISTA, NCBI reached more than 1500 youth with training to reduce prejudice, mistreatment, and bullying and increase esteem, conflict-resolution skills, and positive peer and adult relationships. We are proud that our partnership is effectively addressing some of the root causes of youth depression, violence and self-harm - which are all contributing factors of poverty.



Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc

HEALTHY FUTURES VETERANS

QUICK FACTS:

10 VISTAs
\$63,006 raised
1034 volunteers recruited
937 individuals served



Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc (RMDC) is a nonprofit human resources development council committed to improving the quality of life for all community members, especially those who face poverty. RMDC is also committed to encouraging volunteerism that itself addresses community need.

Over the last five years, 10 Prevention Resource Center AmeriCorps VISTA members have served at Rocky Mountain Development Council with the following programs: affordable housing, Head Start, Compeer, and Rocky Mountain Youth Resources. The VISTA members raised over \$63,000 to support these programs; recruited over 1000 volunteers; and served 937 individuals through parent education programs at Head Start, the annual Way Home Stand Down and Access Fair for Veterans, and the therapeutic transition of the Jan Shaw Youth Home for girls. We are proud that our partnership is effectively addressing issues surrounding housing, education, mental health, and at-risk youth.

